

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 /077 W
-----018231 081615Z /53

P 081105Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1738
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0652

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV BC WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: EXTAFF MIN MOGWE ON NEW YORK PROXIMITY TALKS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT ON NEW YORK PROXIMITY
TALKS, EXTAFF MIN MOGWE TOLD DAILY NEWS MARCH 7 THAT IT
WAS "DIFFICULT TO SAY WHETHER THEY (TALKS) WERE A STEP
TOWARDS A SOLUTION". HOWEVER, MOGWE PRAISED SWAPO FOR HAVING
MADE IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS ON "REDUCTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN
TROOPS, PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL
AND ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTIONS." MOGWE CONCLUDED THAT "SWAPO WENT
TO NEW YORK PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE" AFTER DROPPING PREVIOUS
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DEMANDS FOR COMPLETE SADF WITHDRAWAL AND MODIFYING ITS
POSITION THAT, AS "RECOGNIZED LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE"
OF NAMIBIAN PEOPLE, IT DID NOT HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS.
MOGWE DID NOT MENTION SAG NEGOTIATING POSITION AT PROXIMITY
TALKS. END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. COMMENT: SWAPO HAS BEEN HISTORICALLY UNPOPULAR AMONG
MANY GOB OFFICIALS BECAUSE OF ITS REJECTION OF FREE ELECTIONS
AND ITS OVERALL INFLEXIBILITY IN SEARCHING FOR SOLUTION TO
NAMIBIA PROBLEM. HOWEVER, SWAPO'S RECENT CONCESSIONS ON THESE
POINTS HAVE APPARENTLY CONVINCED GOB THAT IT IS AT LAST MAKING
SINCERE EFFORT TO COME TO TERMS WITH SAG. CONSEQUENTLY,
ON EVE OF COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA MEETING IN LUSAKA, GOB IS PRO-
BABLY MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD SWAPO AND ITS NEGOTIATING
POSITION THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST.
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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